

Wheeler, Redmond secure state medals

By Jim Toth
staff writer

It's on to the next hurdle for Keith Wheeler.

The Troy High track star completed a stellar high school career Saturday by earning blue-ribbon finishes in two events at the state Class A track finals at Alma. The state titles brought Wheeler's prep total to four.

Wheeler's wins came in the 300-meter hurdles and 400-meter dash. Wheeler crossed the line in 36.2 to capture the hurdles and 47.3 to win the 400. Both times were personal bests this season.

"The last couple years, he has had a couple darn good years," Troy coach John Bancroft beamed. "In his high school career he has recorded all-state marks seven times, won four state titles, was regional and county champ in 10 events and set four county records. You could say he's had quite a career already and I feel he has yet to reach his peak."

WHEELER HELPED add a few more points to his team's total of 30 — good enough to finish fifth overall behind champion Lansing Sexton, and runners-up Kalamazoo Loy-Norrix, Ann Arbor Huron and Jackson — with a second-place showing in the 110-meter hurdles. Wheeler's 14.03 clocking fell short to Roget Ware's 13.87 effort. Ware of Lansing Sexton has won the event the past three years.

"Roget has beaten Keith by more than that in the past," Bancroft noted. "This time it was closer than ever before."

The only other Colt to place was Jason Masterson who finished seventh in the shot put with a toss of 54-11 $\frac{1}{2}$.

"Jason has had a heckuva year," Bancroft praised. "He never picked up a shot until December and became the best in the league and county. He got to the state meet and didn't do bad at all. I think he had



Rudy Redmond Files for Jays

hoped to do better, but his effort all season has been outstanding."

The Colts had hoped for more points, mainly from the mile relay team, but the four-man contingent suffered a devastating blow when they mishandled the baton. "We felt we could win the event because no team had beaten us all year," Bancroft said. "But I was pleased with our overall performance. We had some great efforts from guys like Lowery Day, Scott Cavender, Bill Johansson and Eric Williams.

SOUTHFIELD'S outstanding senior Rudy Redmond displayed his talents when he managed third-place showings in both hurdle events. Redmond finished with a time of 14.13 in the 110 and 37.5 in the 300.

"We knew going in that Rudy was capable of finishing anywhere from the top to bottom," Southfield coach Tom Eschmann said. "The way he performed was a fitting conclusion for a great high school track career."

Frank Wilkerson was the only other Blue Jay to place when he fin-

ished sixth in the two-mile with a 9:35 clocking. The time was a personal best and set a Southfield school record.

"I was real excited about the people who scored at state and pleased with the performances of those who participated," Bancroft said. "My favorite team became my best team."

Bill Fitzpatrick and John Collins from Brother Rice claimed two of the top eight spots in discus competition. Fitzpatrick recorded a 154-11 effort to finish fifth while Collins settled for eighth with a 145-10 performance.

The two-mile relay team of Dave Green, Matt Brown, Mike Burry and John Koppin finished eighth with an 8:01.7 showing.

"**WE SCORED** every kid that qualified, so that was nice," Rice coach Bob Stark said.

Other area placings were turned in by Rochester's Doug Goudie in the two-mile and Troy Athens' Keith Kluge in the 800-meter run.

In girls competition, Rochester's Vicky Butchko recorded the highest area finish with a runner-up showing in the shot put with a 39-9 toss.

Karen Spiers of Rochester Adams finished seventh in the both hurdle events, posting a 15.2 time in the 100 meters and 45.6 in the 300.

Troy's Anna Jontony finished tied for fourth in the high jump with a 5-1 effort and Kristie Westerby was sixth in the 400 meters with a 58.4.

Troy's 3,200-meter relay team finished sixth while Southfield's 400-meter relay contingent was seventh.

In Class B competition at Sturgis, Avondale's girls team finished tied for 10th place with 16 points.

Stephani Frohock spearheaded the finish with a third in the long jump at 17-4 $\frac{1}{2}$. Lynn Yagiela finished fourth in the shot put with a 37-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ effort and Shella Sac was fourth in the 300 hurdles with a school-record time of 46.6.

Joe Jefferson had the best boys finish with a fifth in the long jump at 21-10 $\frac{1}{4}$.